

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL MINISTER OF STATE SOINANGE

REF: NAIROBI 8613

1. WAITING TO SEE PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT STATE HOUSE MOMBASA ON AUGUST 19, KOINANGE TOLD ME PRESIDENT KENYATTA WISHES TO STRESS PEACE FOR EAST AFRICA, AND AFRICA. WORKING TOGETHER, THE U.S. AND KENYA CAN ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. IN AFRICA, AS CURRENTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA, KOINANGE NOTED, ACTION IS "DIRECT TO THE LAST RESORT--BULLETS;" NOT, AS IN AMERICA, USE OF TEAR GAS. BULLETS ARE NOT THE ANSWER, KOINANGE BEMOANED. WITH AMERICA'S HELP, PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED.

2. PURSUING SUBJECT, AND SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I ASKED KOINANGE WHETHER MZEE KENYATTA HAD THOUGHT OF THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF PUBLICLY ADVOCATING ARMS LIMITATION EFFORTS FOR EAST AFRICA. EVEN IF DIRECT MATERIAL ADVANTAGES WERE NOT REALIZED, I POINTED OUT, SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE WOULD BE GAINED IN FURTHERING A FRAMEWORK FOR STABILITY. KOINANGE REPLIED THAT KENYATTA MIGHT BE THOUGHT TOO ACCOMMODATING: THAT HE WAS GIVING IN TO POTENTIAL EXTERNAL THREATS, RATHER THAN PREPARING FOR THEM. I EMPHASIZED THAT I WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT KENYA NOT HAVE A DEFENSIVE FORCE NOR THAT IT SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATING BUT RATHER THAT KENYA (KENYATTA) TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN

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ADVOCATING PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. HE COULD, I SUGGESTED,

MAKE A POINT OF TAKING A PAGE FROM THE BIG POWER'S BOOK: THEY WHO ARE TRYING FOR ARMS LIMITATIONS. WHY SHOULDN'T AFRICA TRY, NOW? KOINANGE SEEMED TO FIND THE IDEA APPEALING, BUT FRAUGHT WITH INTERNAL (KENYAN) POLITICAL DANGERS. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE MATTER THOUGHT.

3. COMMENTING BRIEFLY ON PRESIDENT NYERERE'S VISIT TO MOMBASA, KOINANGE STATED THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN A GOOD, FRIENDLY ONE, BUT HAD NOT RESULTED IN SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. NYERERE, KOINANGE OBSERVED, WAS ALL FOR CONTINUATION OF EAC, FROM WHICH HE BENEFITED: HE BUILT A HARBOR, EXTENDED HIS RAILWAY SYSTEMS, OBTAINED REVENUES. NYERERE HAD DECLARED TO KENYATTA THAT IT WOULD BE KENYA OR TANZANIA WHO WOULD TERMINATE EAC IF IT WAS DONE. IT COULD NEVER BE UGANDA, AND IT WOULD NOT BE TANZANIA. KOINANGE SUMMED UP: IT MIGHT BE KENYA, PRESSED BY TANZANIA TO THE LIMIT.

4. THE BRITISH, AS KENYA'S FRIEND WOULD NOT BE RATED HIGH ON A CURRENT POLL OF GOK OPINION. (COMMENT: THE CRITICISM IS SOMEWHAT UNFAIR.) KOINANGE SAID, "WE KNOW WHO (THE U.S.) OUR FRIENDS ARE," AND CITED A CASE: "I AM TOLD AMIN PICKED UP THE TELEPHONE AND ASKED QADHAFI TO SEND HIM A PLANELOAD OF PETROL, WHICH HE DID, IMMEDIATELY. WE ASKED A FRIEND TO SHIP US SOME EQUIPMENT WHICH WE HAVE STILL NOT RECEIVED. MAYBE WE'LL GET IT IN TWO YEARS* WHY IS IT A BUFFOON CAN GET SUCH RESPONSIVE ACTION, AND WE CAN'T. WE DID, FROM THE U.S." MARSHALL

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